

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 41 of the First Extraordinary Session
By Scroggs

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Dr. Earl Irvin West of Germantown for his meritorious service and for his many years of dedicated service and exceptional ability in spreading the gospel.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected representatives of the state of Tennessee should pause to pay tribute to those exemplary citizens who have given unselfishly of themselves, their time and their talents to perpetuate the public good; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Earl Irvin West, professor and church historian of the Churches of Christ, is one such remarkable citizen and a voice of integrity at Harding University's Graduate School of Religion since 1966; and

WHEREAS, a resident of Germantown, Dr. Earl West joined the faculty at Harding University's Graduate School of Religion in 1966 where he has proven to be a valuable asset to the community of scholars; and

WHEREAS, previous to his lecturing at the graduate school, Dr. West taught at both Harding's Searcy campus and at Freed-Hardeman University; and

WHEREAS, concurrent with his teaching assignments, he preached for almost 40 years at the Irvington and Franklin Road Churches of Christ in Indianapolis; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Earl West's exemplary dedication to spreading God's word is evident in his weekly schedule during the 1955-56 school year in which Dr. West preached in Indianapolis on Sundays, traveled by train to St. Louis, caught a Pullman car to Kensett and

arrived at Harding's campus just in time for class on Tuesday morning. Dr. West would then stay and teach on the Harding's Searcy campus until Friday mornings when he would then drive to Memphis and teach in Harding's graduate extension before flying back to Indianapolis. He continued to preach in Indianapolis and teach in Memphis for the majority of his more than 30 years of service to his Lord; and

WHEREAS, throughout his excellent service as Professor, Author and Church historian, he has adhered to the common sense approach and has displayed the common touch in all endeavors, working well with old and young alike; and

WHEREAS, Dr. West's credentials speak well of his expertise in his chosen field by having studied at Freed-Hardeman and Abilene Christian Universities and graduated from Pepperdine University. He also holds a Ph.D. in American history from Indiana University; and

WHEREAS, he has served as the foremost historian of Churches of Christ in the twentieth century; he authored the four-volume *The Search for the Ancient Order*, as well as *The Trials of the Ancient Order*, and also wrote major biographies on David Lipscomb and Ben Franklin; and

WHEREAS, he has been credited for having made major contributions to the beginning and continuing history of Harding University's Graduate School of Religion, as he was instrumental in bringing Dr. W.B. West, the founding dean of the Graduate School, to Harding College in 1951; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Earl Irvin West will be honored as a longtime professor and church historian on April 23, 1999, at an event which will be hosted by the Graduate School of Religion; and

WHEREAS, a concerned person whose willingness to help those in need knows no bounds, Dr. West is highly regarded as a professional and as a friend by all persons in Germantown; and

WHEREAS, Dr. West is fortunate to share both love and companionship with his wife, Dorothy; and

WHEREAS, this notable individual is the perfect example of a person totally committed to his Lord, his family and his fellow citizens and thus should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Dr. Earl Irvin West for his meritorious service to his church, family, and to his fellow citizens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.